

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system comprising:
 - (a) a core composition comprising one or more beneficial agents and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, wherein at least one excipient swells when exposed to an aqueous environment,
 - (b) a coat surrounding the core composition, wherein the coat is impermeable to the beneficial agent and other core components, but may be permeable or impermeable to water,
 - (c) a passageway in the coat, and
 - (d) a composition applied so as to substantially cover only the passageway, wherein ~~said~~ ~~cover composition does not completely cover the coat~~ the composition comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymers, water swellable polymer, pH-dependent polymer and mixtures thereof.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that are susceptible to decreased stability in the gastric environment.

4. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that are targeted to the intestine for local action.

5. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that cause bleeding or irritation of the gastric mucosa.

6. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition used to cover the passageway is such that it releases the contents of the core at a predetermined time after oral administration.

7. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition used to cover the passageway is such that it releases the contents of the core at a predetermined location in the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration.

8. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system provides delayed release of the beneficial agent.

9. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides timed release of the beneficial agent.

10. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides pulsatile delivery of the beneficial agent.

11. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides controlled release of the beneficial agent.

12. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a delayed controlled release of the same or a different beneficial agent, the delay being dependent on gastric emptying time.

13. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a timed controlled release of the same or a different beneficial agent, the delay being independent of gastric emptying time.

14. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a delayed release of the same or a different beneficial agent in a conventional manner, the delay being dependent on gastric emptying time.

15. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by delayed release of another beneficial agent, the delay being independent of gastric emptying time.

16. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides delivery of the beneficial agent to a targeted site.

17. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the delivery is in the form of a pulse.

18. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the beneficial agent is delivered in a rate controlled manner.

19. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition forms at least one of a plug or a band blocking the passageway.

20. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the cover composition forms a plug blocking the passageway.

21. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition forms a band blocking the passageway.

22. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover composition covers only the ~~orifice~~ passageway.

23. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an immediate release composition comprising the same or a different beneficial agent.

24. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a water soluble polymer.